Palace V. 10.

CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

ORIGINAL AND PROPER OBJECTS

OF THE

ROYAL HOSPITAL

OF

BRIDEWELL.

ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNORS,

BY

WILLIAM WADDINGTON, ESQ.

A GOVERNOR.

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1798.

CONSIDERATIONS, &c.

THE GOVERNORS of the united Royal Hospitals of Bridewell and Bethlem, at a very numerous court convened in June 1792 to take into consideration the Report of the select Committee of Enquiry,

RESOLVED, "That the institution of *artsmas-* "*ters* and *apprentices* ought to be abolished" and afterwards, appointed and authorized a Prison Committee "to carry into immediate effect, in the "best manner possible, the proposed reform re- "specting artsmasters, apprentices, and Bridewell, "with all new arrangements as to the prisons and "prisoners; and to form regulations adapted there- "to; so as to render the charity of Bridewell as "respectable, and as extensively useful as possible, "conformably to the beneficent intentions of the "royal founder and our ancestors."

After this auspicious beginning, it might have been reasonably presumed, that those laudable objects were in a fair train of being fully accom-

plished; and, that another appeal to the good sense of the Governors, on the same subject, must be totally superfluous: but, unfortunately, this reasonable presumption would have been ill founded.

The prisons indeed, have undergone several necessary and important alterations, and may be expected in time to rival in management and utility, if not in splendor, some of the county goals that have been erected and established under the auspices of the benevolent Howard: but the plan being limited and imperfect, is capable of amplification and improvement.

The resolution of the court, respecting artsmasters and apprentices, has been still less effective; it has been enforced in nothing, except in the discontinuance of taking apprentices. The imperfect enforcement of this resolution has arisen partly, perhaps, from the more pressing necessity of rebuilding and regulating the two prisons; partly from some supposed difficulties in the way of an *immediate* removal of the artsmasters; and partly from a tender respect paid by the Committee to the prejudices or scruples of some Governors attached by early habits to a system faulty in every

respect, and venerable only, if venerable at all, for its antiquity. In the meantime a considerable portion of a noble revenue is unemployed, to any useful purpose; and although only two apprentices remain in the Hospital, the artsmasters are permitted to retain and occupy premises of considerable value without any compensation, or advantage to the charity.

To examine and settle every doubt respecting artsmasters and their apprentices;—to point out some more eligible way of employing that part of the revenue hitherto appropriated to them, consistently with the charter and subsequent benefactions;—and to rouse the Governors to an active discharge of the duty they have solemnly undertaken to perform, are the main objects of the following pages; which are respectfully submitted to their calm and serious consideration.

For these purposes, it it necessary to take a comprehensive view of the origin of the establishment of Bridewell, and of its original and proper objects.

The dissolution of monasteries and the suppression of religious houses in 1536, having driven

great numbers of priests and others from their asylums, destitute of all provision or means of support, they were reduced to the miserable expedient of begging alms for a precarious subsistence. In a short time this became so offensive and burthensome to the nation, that a severe statute was made in the 1st of Edward VIth for the regulation of paupers and the punishment of vagrants. In consequence of this and other ordinary causes, multitudes of necessitous persons resorted to the metropolis for protection and relief; and it appears that some respectable citizens, either voluntarily, or, more probably as a committee constituted for that purpose, contributed liberally to their necessities.

At length however their wants became so pressing, and they were reduced to such misery, that in 1552, upon the recommendation of those Governors, as they were called, it was thought advisable that a petition, in the name, and on behalf of these unhappy sufferers, should be addressed to the king (Edward VIth) "beseeching him in "CHRIST'S name" to grant the old palace of Bridewell to the City of London for their harbour and lodging.

Sir Martin Bowes*, four other aldermen, and seven citizens, were deputed to present this petition, and Dr. Ridley, Bishop of London, was requested to accompany them. They went accordingly, and, as the record says, the good prelate "did himself deliver the supplication with his own "hands unto the king's highness, in his inner clo- "set on his knees; and there made a long and "learned oration to the commendation of the "citizens in the travail of this good work; and "greatly stirred, by wonderful persuasions, the "king's majesty to be the founder and patron "thereof, and to further all their suits†."

The Corporation of London, at the same time, zealously seconded this application; and, by desire of the privy council, presented a memorial or declaration, stating at large, their ideas and wishes,

* This distinguished magistrate, and excellent man, was sheriff of London in 1541, Lord Mayor in 1545, and represented the City in parliament four different times: he died in 1569.

† Bishop Ridley, in May 1552, wrote to his private friends Sir William Cecil, the king's secretary, and Sir John Gates, both probably of the privy council, on the occasion; and was in other respects extremely active in recommending and promoting this good work. See Stow's Survey, and Maitland's History of London.

as to the poor in general, with their particular motives and views in thus earnestly " suing for " his Majesty's House of Bridewell."

They begin by observing, that as the *cause* of all misery and beggary was IDLENESS, so the most natural and effectual *cure* was LABOUR; but that, as beggars were, or usually had been lewd and evil in their conduct, and were consequently so much suspected and feared that none chose to employ them, however willing they might be to become honest and industrious; they were of opinion, that there ought to be a public establishment, and provision of work, wherewith the *willing* poor might be exercised,—and wherein the froward, strong, and sturdy vagabond might be *compelled* to live profitably to the commonwealth.

They then represent to the honourable council, that his Majesty's faithful citizens of London had already formed a comprehensive general plan for the relief and comfort of different descriptions of the poor; that in pursuance of that plan they had lately, at a very considerable expence, enlarged, repaired and fitted up the two Hospitals of Christ and St. Thomas, for those charitable purposes.

CHRIST'S Hospital, which they call the house of the fatherless, was appropriated " for the har- " bouring, cloathing, feeding, teaching, and " training up virtuously of poor children."

St. THOMAS's Hospital was adapted for the reception and relief of " the miserable aged, the " impotent, the sore and the sick," with medical and surgical assistance:—And they also contributed £.500 a year to the Hospital of St. BARTHOLOMEW, for the like benevolent purposes.

But that there was still wanted " for the " *perfection* of their plan, and useful labours,— " what in their judgment was the *most* needful " and necessary; a HOUSE of OCCUPATIONS," wherein,

1. " As well the child, when he is brought up " and grown to years, and found unapt to learn- " ing; neither any honest person desireth, or " would have his service, might be exercised and " occupied."

2. " As also, the sore and sick, when cured; " and not be suffered to wander as vagabonds in " the common weal, as had been accustomed, " but be there exercised."

3. " And that unto this house should be " brought the sturdy and idle."

4. " And likewise, such prisoners as were quit " at the sessions; that there they might have " labour."

They then state that these various objects would require a building of great extent; that his Majesty's old palace at Bridewell was well adapted for the purpose, and that, if granted, different manufactories should be established there; a sufficient stock of raw materials, tools and implements for labour should be provided; and a proper number of Governors, Officers and Servants appointed; particularly Taskmasters and Taskmistresses, who should be honest and expert in such sciences as were there to be exercised; should take the charge of every man's daily task and proportion of work; and should have power to correct such as were loiterers or negligent.

They conclude the whole with the most solemn assurances that the house of Bridewell should be applied in the manner stated, " for the relief of the " miserable poor and needy, and for none other " lucre, gain, or profit; and that, under the pain

" and forfeiture of God his gracious mercy; and " also under the pain and forfeiture of the said " house, with all the appurtenances, unto the " King's Majesty's hands; and of all the great " costs and charges which they shall have be- " stowed upon the same."

Their prayer was granted in the fullest manner; and on the 12th of June, 1552, an indenture was made and executed by and between the King and the Corporation of London, wherein the palace of Bridewell, with various appendages, then of the yearly value of £.450, are covenanted to be conveyed in due form to the Citizens, on the conditions, and for the specific purposes expressed in their petition and memorial: and the King further condescended to become the patron of the three Hospitals before-mentioned.

The charter itself, dated the 26th June following, (7 Edward VIth) after a short preamble containing a summary of the preceding particulars, and expressing the King's ardent wish* for the

* When the indenture was presented to the king, with a blank space left for the value of lands that might be taken in mortmain, he called for pen and ink, and with his own hand wrote, " 4000 marks by the year;" exclaiming, in the hearing of his council, " Lord, I yield thee most hearty

" furtherance, amplification and increase of so " honest and noble a work," ratifies and completes the grant, incorporates the Hospitals of Christ, Bridewell and St. Thomas into one body politic, with the usual privileges and immunities, and empowers the Governors " at all times, and " always hereafter, when and as often as it shall " be thought unto them convenient, or necessity " shall so require, to ordain, constitute and make " all manner of decrees, convenient, wholesome " and honest ordinances, statutes and rules, for " the good government of the poor who are " to be supported in the said manor or house " called Bridewell-Place;" as also, to appoint proper officers and servants for the necessary service of such poor as from time to time shall be harboured in the said Hospital, " to the intent " that they may be well and honestly ordered and " provided for, as shall be thought meet, by their " discretions." The charter further invests them with extraordinary powers (limited of course by the laws) to search for, examine, compel and excite to honest labour, " *by all ways and means that can* " *be best devised*," " all and all manner of idle ruf-

" thanks, that thou hast given me life thus long, to finish " this work to the glory of thy name." He died, July 8th 1552. Stow's Survey of London, p. 344.

" fians, tavern-haunters, vagabonds, beggars, or " any other suspected persons; and also all per- " sons of evil name and fame, whatsoever they be, " whether men or women."

The death of Edward, and other circumstances, delayed for some time the performance of these excellent designs; for it seems the City did not enter upon the possession of Bridewell till queen Mary's confirmation of the grant had been obtained; and the first rules and ordinances for its government are dated in 1557.

As these rules were drawn up and digested by the same excellent persons who had petitioned for, and obtained the charter, they are entitled to peculiar notice and admiration; as well on account of the pious and benevolent spirit by which they are dictated, as of the wisdom and propriety of the directions; and, above all, for the clear and distinct insight which they afford of the original objects of the charity.

The preamble to those valuable directions, declares, in the quaint but emphatical language of the times, that the house of Bridewell was established, and should have continuance, " for

" the oppression of idleness, the enemy of all " virtue; and for the nourishment of good exer- " cise, which is the conqueror of all vice." The relative policy of the Hospitals of Christ, St. Thomas, and Bridewell, as connected together, is then very perspicuously displayed.

At CHRIST'S, the beggar's child was to be trained up in virtuous exercise, so that of him should spring no more beggars.

At ST. THOMAS'S, the sore and aged person was to be placed, and there have relief and succour.

At BRIDEWELL, the idle strumpet, and vagabond, were to be *forced* and *compelled* to honest and virtuous exercise, so long as they were whole; but being sick, they were to be taken to St. Thomas's, and, when cured, returned to Bridewell; and not set at liberty into the highways, as heretofore, " by means whereof, was made of a sick " beggar, an whole thief."

By this policy, " the child brought up at " Christ's Hospital, if of good capacity, would be " trained in learning; but, if he were not apt to " learning, then to some one occupation or other:

" if he were sick, he would be sent to St. Thomas's " Hospital, and when recovered, he would be " returned to Christs's: or, if he were lewd and " idle, then brought to Bridewell."

" Thus the three houses or hospitals are so " linked together, that the one serveth the other, " and the one may not be without the other; " and whosoever thinketh well of the one, must " also think well of the other; and whoso think- " eth not well of all, thinketh well of none."

There are, also, ample directions respecting the manufactories then carried on at Bridewell, with various regulations, for the internal management of the house; and it seems that *taskmasters* or workmasters were employed, for the superintendency and improvement of the different branches, as well as for the instruction of all those who stood in need of it.

As an evidence that this establishment, and these regulations " had taken effect, and had good " success," it is observed, *that no poor citizen at that day begged his bread; but that by some means his poverty was provided for.*

FROM an attentive consideration of the preceding particulars, explained by circumstances, it is plain, that Bridewell was intended to furnish the means of labour.

FIRST, For vagrants and criminals, on the commitment of a magistrate; for the purposes of correction, employment and reformation.

SECONDLY, For all that numerous class of indigent persons, who want and desire employment, but are unable to procure it.

And as *artsmasters* and *apprentices* are *not* mentioned in the charter, or any antecedent instrument, it is certain, that they were not thought essential to the establishment.

It is indeed true, that apprentices are incidentally mentioned in the orders of 1557; but they are there proposed in one particular branch, nail-making, and in that only; evidently from motives of œconomy and policy;—for the purpose of having means within the walls, of continuing and teaching that species of manufacture; "to the "intent that the journeymen might be discharg-"ed, and that being themselves perfect and ab-

" solute therein, they might train and teach the " other poor children and needy persons, who " should in future be called out of the hateful " life of idleness." It was clearly a regulation of expediency, adapted to a period when manufactures were in their infancy; of which, there cannot be a better proof, than that the original governors afterwards varied that, and other rules, according to circumstances.

Thus in an order of the corporation, for relief of the poor, and setting vagrant and idle people to work at Bridewell*, a few years after the rules of 1557 had been adopted;—among many other new and excellent regulations, it is expressly directed " to the intent that the house of Bride- " well be not overpestered, but may be able to " receive such as shall need; and that such as " shall be brought thither, be brought for their " reformation, and not for perpetual servitude;— " that the governors shall do their endeavours to " bestow as many of the youth as shall be put to " labour there, in service either as apprentices

* The Governors of Bridewell are indebted to a very active and intelligent governor, now living, (Mr. Read) for reprinting and distributing these orders in 1793, at his own expence.

" or otherwise, with citizens, or any others " that will be content to receive them: and " especially that owners and masters of ships be " entreated to receive such into their service."

This shews, that apprentices *within* the Hospital, were not then supposed to be required by the charter; and it is manifest, that the rules and practices of 1557, or any subsequent period, are not binding as precedents on the present Governors, in any other sense than as they form a part of the conditions on which the Hospital was granted.

However, the *practice* of the first Governors does not favor the establishment of artsmasters and apprentices within the Hospital.

It is certain that, during forty years immediately after the charter was obtained, the Hospital was conducted upon its original plan, under the superintendency of TASKMASTERS and TASKMISTRESSES, inspected and controlled by the Governors: and they were clearly nothing more than " discreet and honest persons, expert in " some laborious calling or occupation," who were retained by the Governors to instruct and

employ the paupers and prisoners; and were subject to dismission at pleasure.

On what occasion, and in what manner, *arts-masters* were introduced, does not distinctly appear; but assuredly, it was not during the lives of the intelligent founders. The first mention of them in the court books of the Hospital is in February 1597, and that not greatly in their favor; for they were then all discharged. In 1598 a contract was made with one Stanley and two others; who, in consideration of £.300 a year, and a demise of the workshops in the Hospital, undertook to instruct, employ, and maintain all the poor in the house, " in honest trades and " occupations agreeable to the charter." This was of short continuance, for in 1601 the contractors having failed in the performance of their covenants, were discharged by the Governors from the Hospital, and a deed of release was executed.

Another experiment was then made of artsmasters upon a different plan, of which *apprentices* formed a constituent part; and this seems to have been the commencement of an establishment, that

has been continued with some variations to the present day.

At that time the artsmasters, together or seperately, covenanted with the Governors to take several apprentices, boys and girls; and to keep them in cloathing, washing, mending and board, and instruct them in trades, for different pecuniary considerations, and a demise of part of the Hospital. In one instance 40 apprentices are to be taken care of for £. 10 *per annum*;—in another, five shillings is to be paid annually for each boy. And it appears that the artsmasters were then, and have been since, restricted and prohibited from taking journeymen;—and required, under severe penalties, to employ *vagrants only*.

The event will shew that this experiment was not productive of the good intended;—and that neither the artsmasters, nor apprentices of Bridewell, have ever done the state much service.

Whoever will take the trouble to examine the Court and Committee books for only a century past, must remark with sorrow, that the pages are crowded with bitter complaints against either th. artsmasters or apprentices.

The former were dissolute, negligent and irregular. The latter were mischievous and disorderly, riotous, turbulent, and very rarely good citizens. Yet, if excellent rules, enforced with vigour and attention, could have availed to procure reformation, that desireable end would have been long since attained; for it is but justice to say, that every restraint and every expedient that the good sense, the ingenuity, and good wishes of the Governors and Committees could suggest have been tried,—and tried in vain, to repress and correct irregularities, so mortifying to themselves, and so reproachful to an establishment whose professed objects are INDUSTRY and GOOD ORDER.

In 1754, the Committee recommended, and the Court adopted, some measures of extraordinary vigour. They were unsuccessful; or successful only for a short time; for in 1756 and 7 they were renewed and invigorated. In 1765 new regulations were again rendered necessary by "their enormous misbehaviour," and were again enforced with similar success.

A great part of the period from that time to the present is within the recollection of some of

the Governors now living, whose observations will serve only to confirm this mortifying recital. For the information of those who have not had that unenviable advantage, it may be stated, on the authority of a special Committee, appointed in 1793, to report upon a very unbecoming memorial of some of the Artsmasters to the court.

That within the last 26 years, 81 Apprentices have been taken by the present Artsmasters into the Hospital for education.

That of these, 3 had died; 17 had run away, or been discharged for misbehaviour; 45 had served out their time; and 16 were then in the Hospital.

That of the 45 who had compleated their apprenticeships, and received £.20 each, (£.900 in all) for the gifts of Fowke and Lock, 3 are since dead; 12 are become Porters or Beadles; 28 are now journeymen in their respective trades of Taylors, Shoemakers, Weavers and Shagreen-case makers; and that *two only* are in business as masters.

Yet it is a lamentable reflection that they have

had every advantage which the wholesome rules and discipline of the Hospital, aided by the long experience and official control of some of their warmest advocates, could procure or bestow; and have cost the Hospital, at a moderate estimate, upwards of £. 12,000; besides the gifts of Fowke and Lock, and repairs to the artsmasters' houses: which last, it is well known, have always been a heavy expence.

This will appear from the following calculation, founded upon the Appendix to the printed report of the select Committee of enquiry in 1792; and upon a valuation of the premises occupied by the artsmasters, by the Committee in 1793.

On an average of 16 years from 1776 to 1792, the artsmasters and apprentices cost the Hospital £. 300 : 3 : 2 *per annum*, besides their houses. This, for 17 years* is . . . . . £. 5,103 : 3 : 0

Twelve houses, free of insurance and all repairs, £ 35 a year each, or £. 420 in all, for 17 years, } 7,140 : 0 : 0

£. 12,243 : 3 : 0

* 17 years only are taken, because that may be deemed a sufficient time for the 45 boys who actually served out their time.

Although it were injustice to suppose that there have not always been and now are, many exceptions, it is yet painful to observe that the arts-masters themselves have often been as blameable as the apprentices. But the mischiefs recited have chiefly arisen from a different and an incurable cause.

The association of so many young men, of the same disorderly age, under the same roof,—in one uniform, of one community, not under the absolute control even of their masters, succeeding to habits and vices sanctioned as it were by prescription, and strengthened by time,—furnishes an inevitable and invincible obstacle to the *useful* education of apprentices under any arts-masters, however able or virtuous, *within* the Hospital.

The foregoing facts and observations demonstrate so forcibly the inutility and impolicy of the institution, that it must excite a mixture of grief and surprise to find that it should have been so long continued, and considered as an essential part of the establishment at Bridewell: yet, wonderful as it may seem, even at this day it has its advocates;—of whom some respect its antiquity;

others speak highly of the virtuous education of youth; while a third class have serious doubts, whether the Governors are not confined, by certain specific bequests, to train up apprentices under artsmasters within the walls of the Hospital.

If the two former of these objectors are not already convinced, I know no other arguments to convince them; but a question arising from a conscientious scruple is entitled to further investigation. And undoubtedly, if there remain a single plea of any weight in favor of the continuance of the establishment, it must be found in the wills of the benefactors. This sentiment is countenanced and fortified by the 30th standing rule and order, which wisely directs, "that all the "benefactions, legacies and bequests to these "Hospitals, or to either of them, be appropri- "ated with the most scrupulous exactness to the "specific benevolent purposes, for which they "were, or may be, respectively given."

Of the numerous benefactions and testamentary bequests to the Governors "for the use and "benefit of Bridewell Hospital, and to support

" and carry on the pious and charitable uses and " purposes for which the same was founded and " intended,"—those *only* of LOCKE and FOWKE seem to be unequivocally specific, and limited to apprentices who have served their time *within* the Hospital. They are as follow:

JOHN LOCK, a citizen of London, by his last will, bearing date, October 26, 1632, gave £.1000 to enable the Governors of Bridewell to give £.5 or £.10 each at their discretion, " *for setting up* " *such youths as have served their apprenticeships* " *there.*"

JOHN FOWKE, also a citizen of London, by his will, dated, October 22, 1686, devised four houses in Tower-street to the Governors of Bridewell and Bethlem Hospitals in trust, to apply *two-thirds* of the profit thereof for ever, to Bethlem Hospital, and the other *one-third* " *to* " *set up such young men as should have served their* " *apprenticeships in Bridewell,*" the sum not to exceed ten pounds to each.

ALTHOUGH it may be fairly presumed that the testators would *now* have acted differently,—or at

least have made use of words of greater latitude; yet, as there can be no doubt of the literal meaning of these two bequests, it seems reasonable that, if the institution be abolished—or varied, either in spirit or substance, some expedient should be adopted, and some arrangement made, in reference to these wills—that shall be as conformable, as is now practicable, to the eternal and immutable principles of justice and equity. Whether this may be best done by a private agreement with the representatives or heirs at law of the testators;—or under parliamentary directions and authority, or both;—are points which those Governors who are learned in the law are most competent to settle.

Before this part of the subject is dismissed—two interesting considerations present themselves to the serious reflection of the Governors.

First, How far it has been consistent with the declared intentions of Fowke and Lock for the Governors uniformly to give £. 20 to each apprentice towards setting him up in business, knowing, as they have generally done at the time, that not one in ten of the claimants ever designed, or was qualified, to begin business as a

master at all. Of the forty-five who very lately received £. 20 each, twelve are porters, twenty-eight are journeymen, and *two only*, in business.

Secondly, How far it was consistent with every wise and œconomical principle—as well as with the true and beneficent intentions of our ancestors and the royal founder, for the Governors, after such experience, to expend above £. 12,000 belonging to the charity, in educating a few boys within the Hospital in order to entitle them to £. 20 each, from the estates of Lock and Fowke.

Would it not be better to relinquish those bequests, if that be the only alternative, than retain them on such unworthy and unjust conditions?

As to the mode of disposing of the artsmasters, there cannot be any difficulty.

They have been always elected by the Court from *year* to *year*, (not as objects of charity) subject to *dismission*, and to quit their rooms at the pleasure of the Governors; either, for neglect of duty; or when their apartments were wanted for other purposes; or when the conditions on which they were elected were no longer required of

them. It is, therefore, evident that they have very little claim to compensation; and that they must either quit the Hospital, or pay a reasonable rent for the premises they occupy:—such rent, on a very moderate computation, would produce an addition of nearly £.500 a year to the revenue of the Charity.

HAVING thus considered every argument that can be fairly adduced in favor of the institution of artsmasters and apprentices, and urged the propriety and practicability of carrying into immediate effect, the resolution of the court in June 1792, for their abolition; it becomes necessary "to point out some more eligible way of em-"ploying that part of the revenue hitherto appro-"priated to them, consistently with the charter."

It has been already shewn, that Bridewell was originally intended for two sorts or description of persons.

First, as a house of occupation and correction for vagrants and criminals, on the commitment and under the directions of a Magistrate.

Secondly, for all those numerous and unhappy

persons who are destitute and desirous of employment, on their *voluntary* application.

Of the former of these, it is not necessary to say much. The two prisons at Bridewell for men and women, have been greatly enlarged and improved within these few years; and the Prison Committee, with great honor to themselves, have been assiduous in forming and enforcing many salutary regulations for employing and reforming the prisoners; objects which may now be pursued with greater hopes of success, by solitary confinement in *some* cases; which, till lately, was scarcely practicable in *any*.

But for persons of the second and most interesting class, nothing has yet been done, though there are none so peculiarly entitled to our compassion; particularly those who for different causes have been discharged from imprisonment.

Under this head it were unpardonable not to notice, and injurious to the cause which it is the object of these pages to promote, not to avail myself of the eloquent and moving representation of a magistrate, who is justly entitled to the warmest praise of every friend of humanity and

his country, for a recent publication " On the " Police of the metropolis;" a treatise which abounds with interesting information, and is enriched with useful remarks.

After observing, that within four years, nearly 12,000 prisoners have been discharged from the prisons in the metropolis, and the bills of mortality, and lamenting most feelingly the imperfect police of the country, in not having provided places of industry, in which those who were disposed to reform, might find subsistence in return for labour; he thus proceeds:

" Humanity shudders at the contemplation of " this interesting part of the discussion; when it is " considered, who these our miserable fellow mor- " tals are, and what is to be expected from the ex- " treme depravity which attaches to the chief part " of them." " Without friends, without character, " and without the means of subsistence, what are " these unhappy mortals to do? They are no " sooner known or suspected than they are " avoided.—No person will employ them, even " if they were disposed to return to the paths of " honesty; unless they make use of fraud and " deception, by concealing that they have been

" the inhabitants of *a prison* or of the *hulks*.
" At large upon the world, without food or rai-
" ment, and with the constant calls of nature
" upon them for both,—without a home or any
" asylum to shelter them from the inclemency
" of the weather, *what is to become of them?*"
" Under all these circumstances, it is to be feared,
" indeed it is known, that many convicts *from*
" *dire necessity*, return to their old courses: and
" thus, through the medium of these miserable
" outcasts of society, crimes are increased, and
" become a regular trade, because many of them
" can have no other election."

In another place he remarks that, " all endea-
" vours towards the prevention of crimes will
" ever be attended with unconquerable difficulty,
" until some GENERAL HOUSE OF INDUSTRY can
" be established in the metropolis; where *per-*
" *sons discharged* for *petty offences*, as well as
" *strangers and others out of work*, may have an
" opportunity, at least of temporary employ-
" ment, sufficient to maintain them.—An insti-
" tution of this sort would be a work of great
" charity and humanity; and it is earnestly to be
" hoped, that the view of the subject given in
" this work, may induce men of opulence and

" philanthropy, to set on foot an establishment " calculated to promote such a multitude of good " and useful objects; more especially, as with " proper management, it would very soon pay " itself." Again, " that man, says he, will " deserve a statue to his memory, who shall de- " vise and carry into effect, a plan for the em- " ployment of *discharged prisoners and convicts*, " who may be desirous of labouring for their " subsistence in an honest way. It is only ne- " cessary for some men of weight and influence " to make the attempt, in order to insure the " assistance of the opulent and humane, in so " good and necessary a work."

Conformably to these sentiments, the benevolent author afterwards recommends more specifically, two ASYLUMS, one for *male*, the other for *female* outcasts, in which, he is of opinion, that " it would not be very difficult, with good " and proper management, to introduce such " good and beneficial works, as would nearly, if " not wholly, cover the expence. The males " might be employed in spinning twine, and " making cordage, who have not been bred to " particular mechanical employments, which " could be carried on in such asylums: while

" the females could be subsisted from their la-
" bour in tambour, embroidery, or other needle-
" work; in binding shoes, finishing gloves, making
" slops, and soldiers and seamens' shirts, knitting
" stockings, picking cotton, and many other
" branches of work; which might be procured
" by following up the resources which the me-
" tropolis affords for every species of human
" labour *."

After this long quotation, which seems to exhaust the subject, further arguments or authority may be thought superfluous,—the author cannot, however, deny himself the gratification of making known to the Governors the sentiments of a distinguished Divine, who ranks with the most powerful writers, and most accomplished scholars of the age.—It is the more pleasing to produce this extract, as it shews that the eyes of the public are directed to the Governors of the Royal Hospital of Bridewell for the accomplishment of this mighty work.

The Rev. Dr. Parr, in a note respecting the Westminster Police Bill, then (1792) before par-

* Treatise on the Police of the Metropolis, by P. Colquhoun, Esq. 5th edition, p. 91, 92, 291, 421.

liament, says, " After writing this note, I found " that the members of the Bridewell Committee " had proposed to lay out part of their revenue " in providing the means of labour for such un- " happy persons as, when dismissed from impri- " sonment, are destitute of employment. A " situation, heaven knows! which has long called " in vain for pity and succour, and which has " driven many wretches into crimes, by the im- " pulse of a necessity, for which public justice " makes no allowance, though public authority " should again and again have been exercised to " prevent it. The proposal of which I am speak- " ing, does infinite honour to the heads and " hearts of those by whom it was made; it enti- " tles them to the thanks of the virtuous, and " the blessings of the miserable; and the effects " of it will be not less beneficial, nor less cre- " ditable to the community, than any police bill " that has been framed, or is likely to be framed."

To these powerful incentives little need be added. It has been already shewn that one of the views and wishes of our forefathers in petitioning for Bridewell, was " that *such prisoners as* " *were quit at the sessions might* there *have labour.*"

The same benignant spirit pervades the original indenture and charter; and in the detailed orders of the City for the relief of the poor, in 1587, before alluded to, it is publicly announced, that "such "as *will* labour, and have not, nor can provide "to set themselves to work, (making their moan) "*may have work appointed, or delivered them at* "BRIDEWELL:" and that "none of the poor "or their children should be suffered to beg or "wander in the streets; but be exercised upon "meet labour, towards the getting of their living "in honest sort."

These facts demonstrate the intentions of the Charity, and the power of the Governors to carry them into effect. And while they correct the inadvertent mistake of the worthy Magistrate, and in some degree rescue the metropolis from the reproach to which it was exposed by that mistake, they confer the honor of an *original* establishment where that honor is justly due,—and leave to the present generation, only the humbler praise of *reviving* a practice, which is truly and eminently PHILANTHROPIC.

WHAT remains then, but to realize this delightful project?—

Enlightened and improved as the world now is by the diffusion of knowledge and the progress of manufactures;—aided and animated as the Governors are by the establishment of numerous houses of Industry;—by the successful regulation of prisons;*—by the fortunate example of a *neighbouring Society*† conducted on principles congenial with *their own*;—and, above all, by the happy efforts of a distinguished philosopher,‡ who by combining generosity and kindness with frugality and rigor, has reduced a brilliant theory to practice;—every difficulty will soon vanish;—a plan liberal and comprehensive, may be formed, embracing every important object, and guarded against every material abuse.

Be it however always remembered, that nothing substantially or permanently good can be effected, without the concurrence of great energies, or maintained, without persevering exertions;—without an unreserved confidence, countenance, and encouragement on the part of the Court; and

* The management of the Prisons at Gloucester, Dorchester, and Philadelphia; also an establishment for the relief of the poor at Hamburgh, claims particular notice.

† The Philanthropic Society, in St. George's Fields.

‡ Count Rumford.

certainly not without extraordinary judgment, discretion, integrity, and patient assiduity on the part of the persons appointed to carry the plan into execution.

Fortunately for the cause of humanity, the funds of the Hospital are amply sufficient to bear even a more extended scale of expence. By the printed abstract sent, in April last, to every Governor, the present revenue, if the apartments and houses of the artsmasters were let, may be estimated at about £. 5000 a year; besides a debt of above £. 1700 from Bethlem Hospital, for which no interest is paid.

During the year ending Christmas 1796, the expenditure had been,

On vagrants and criminals . . .	£.	1017 :	9 : 7
Artsmasters and apprentices (including £.60 for Fowke's and Lock's gifts)		214 :	0 : 8
Salaries and gratuities, &c. to officers and servants . .		958 :	10 : 6
Taxes, &c. and repairs at the Hospital		451 :	4 : 8
Printing, coals, stationary, &c. and two feasts		290 :	10 : 10
	£.	2931 :	16 : 3

besides £. 1000 on account of the new prison. So that, excluding the last item, that of the arts-masters and apprentices, and other incidental matters, it will not be too much to estimate the future unappropriated surplus of revenue beyond the expenditure, at £. 2200 *per annum*; susceptible of constant improvement, as well from the falling in of building leases*, as from the benefactions:—which may be reasonably expected to increase considerably, when the public shall be satisfied that their contributions are not bestowed in vain.

If therefore, there be any truth in the expectation of the intelligent Magistrate before-mentioned,—that the establishment he recommends will, with proper management, very soon pay itself,—a considerable portion of the revenue will be at liberty to be applied in such other ways as the Governors may think proper.

The education of a number of young persons out of the Hospital in useful occupations, on a large and liberal plan, was lately suggested in very

* The leases of 18 houses in Bridewell Precinct, and of 21 in Wapping, expire within the present year.

general terms by a Prison Committee who were deeply impressed with the conviction, that habits of industry are not easily or often acquired by the adult, but are most frequently the fruits of seeds sown in early youth; and that therefore, no system for usefully employing the people would compleatly answer that purpose without the assistance of a judicious education. This being unquestionably the language of observation and experience, has a strong claim to our attention. Suppose then, the experiment were to be made in a manner something like the following:

LET a hundred boys, the children of indigent persons, be chosen by ballot in the first instance, and afterwards be nominated by the Governors in rotation, according to their seniority as Governors,—and be bound apprentices, *out of* the house, to such different trades, occupations, or manufactures, as the Court or House Committee shall, from time to time, prescribe; but not more than four to any one, and not confined to the metropolis.

LET the number of one hundred be constantly kept up, and the vacancies supplied once every year (perhaps at Easter); and let the parents or

friends of each boy find out, and recommend a proper master; subject always to the rigorous examination, and entire approbation, of the House Committee.

LET a sum, by way of premium, not exceeding £.20 in all, be appropriated for each boy; but not more than £.10 be conditioned for, and paid down as the apprentice fee: the other £.10 to be reserved for distribution to the master at different periods, as the Committee shall think proper, to excite kind treatment, and reward good behaviour. For instance, £.5 after three or four years, and the other £.5 at the expiration of the apprenticeship.

LET the boy also be encouraged to improve, and to behave well. For which purpose, let the Committee have a discretionary power to give him, or to withhold, according to his conduct, a small allowance for pocket-money, payable quarterly, or, if that be too minute and troublesome, a sum not exceeding twenty shillings a year; £.5 : 10 : 0 for cloaths when out of his time, and the further sum of £.20 to enable him to set up in business for himself.

LET there also be an annual allowance of five pounds for the boy's cloaths during his apprenticeship; to be paid half yearly, or on production of proper vouchers. The Committee to have satisfactory information that the boys are decently and properly cloathed.—AND

LET there be fixed periods, once a year at least, for the attendance of those masters and boys who reside in London, or within a moderate distance, upon the Committee, in order to satisfy them of the good behavior of both parties: but let certificates, signed by the minister, and one or two other respectable neighbours, be admitted from parties at an inconvenient distance.

This loose and imperfect outline without all doubt requires, and will admit of some variations, and many modifications in the detail. A remote affinity in the plan to the less exceptionable parts of the old system of apprentices, will at once be perceived; but it bears, or ought to bear, a nearer resemblance to the exemplary practice of a sister Hospital (CHRIST'S) whose praise is in every mouth; and it seems to furnish a reasonable hope, that many boys would thus learn a great variety of useful trades, with every

advantage, and every chance of success: particularly, as they would be so much dispersed, that the irregularities of a few, could not affect the remainder; and the Governors by means of the rewards held out to merit, would retain a considerable influence and control over both parties; divested of that pernicious interference, with the necessary and salutary authority of the master over his apprentice, which has greatly contributed to render ineffectual all attempts at good management within the walls of the Hospital.

Exclusive of the greater probability of good, from such a plan, it will not be attended with so much expence as the practice so justly condemned. For instance,

The premium or consideration with 100 boys, £. 20 each, will be	£. 2000 : 0 : 0
Cloathing *per Annum*, £. 5 each for seven years	3500 : 0 : 0
Pocket allowance, £. 1 each, for ditto	700 : 0 : 0
Allowance on setting up, £. 20 each	2000 : 0 : 0
For cloaths when out of their time £. 5 : 10 : 0 each	550 : 0 : 0
Total for 100 boys in seven years	£. 8750 : 0 : 0

And if in the judgment of professional gentle-

men, the gifts of Fowke and Lock may be retained without or with the authority of parliament, on terms to be settled, and appropriated to Hospital apprentices of this description, the last item of £. 2000. will be thereby provided for: if not, it has been shewn that the other funds are fully equal to the expence.

THIS plan, however, does not seem to include another, and a numerous class of young persons, who are certainly comprehended in the original objects of the Charity, and who are eminently entitled to the compassion and attention of the Governors. These are the *children of criminals and vagrants*, whom it might neither be prudent nor practicable to provide for along with the apprentices just mentioned.

Every principle of RELIGION,—every feeling of HUMANITY, and every motive of sound POLICY, call upon the Governors of Bridewell to take some effectual measures for the protection, relief, and employment of these unhappy wretches, who seem to be doomed from the cradle, to profligacy and destruction.

Let it not be said that the proposal is impracti-

cable. The successful example of the Philanthropic Society, is at once an answer to the objection, and a reproach to *our* inactivity.

The benevolent members of that popular establishment, *search* with parental solicitude for these miserable outcasts of society, amidst the haunts of villany and wretchedness, rescue them from the paths of perdition, and with affectionate kindness, incite them "*by all ways and means that can be devised*,"* to become virtuous and useful members of the commonwealth.

LET US contemplate this interesting picture, and imitate this shining example!

In the attainment of this object, it may be considered whether a co-operation with that Society, and an annual contribution of a certain portion of the Hospital revenue, in aid of their establishment, now so much better situated and adapted than Bridewell for those purposes, may not be more eligible in every point of view, than teaching, maintaining and employing that description of children in some useful laborious occupations under different workmen *within* the Hospital?

* Charter for Bridewell.

If, after all these appropriations, a surplus of revenue still remain, to what purpose can it be better applied, than in aid of the deficient funds of BETHLEM?—An Hospital united from the first to Bridewell as a convenient appendage, or from their resemblance as PRISONS:—for Bethlem was a prison, for the care "*of poor prisoners who were* "LUNATIC." This union, which has been always preserved, was recognized and ratified by an Act passed in 1782.—It would be an insult to the Governors to add one word in favor of a Charity, that has an Advocate in every human breast.

Should legal difficulties arise in the prosecution of these just and generous principles, let application be made to a wise and equitable parliament;—and the result cannot be doubted.

THESE OBSERVATIONS dictated by the purest motives, and now submitted to the good sense and candor of the Governors, with the most ardent wishes for their success, cannot be concluded with greater propriety than with a remark of the present LORD HIGH CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND in a treatise on the state of the English prisons.

AN INDIFFERENCE TO A REFORM DEMONSTRATED TO BE PRACTICABLE, IS NOT ONLY A LOCAL BUT A GENERAL MISCHIEF.

POSTSCRIPT.

HAVING quoted largely from the following valuable papers, I did not intend to have given them at length;—but on a re-perusal, I am so much pleased with their good sense and piety, that I have determined to gratify and inform the Curious, by printing them as an appendix: I do this the rather as I know but of one copy of them now existing.

" THE DECLARATION of the humble suit made to the King's Majesty's Most Honourable Council, by the Citizens of London, A. D. 1552.

THAT IT HATH pleased your Honors of your accustomed benignity, to move the King's Majesty in our humble suit for his Highness's house of Bridewell, we do most heartily thank you for the same; not doubting but even as God hath called you to honor, even so will he preserve and continue you to his honor and the profit of the common wealth, which now by such as we intend to provide for, is greatly grieved and impaired.

AND to the intent it may fully appear to your Honors (according as you have willed) what moved us to this enterprize; to what end we sue for the King's Highness's

House of Bridewell; how the same shall be used; on what ground and stock our matters shall be erected; who shall be the Governors thereof; how they shall be elected; what ordinary officers shall be there; and how the same house may have continuance and not be converted to any other use; we have thought it our bounden duty not only to answer and satisfy your Honors by writing, but also have assigned certain Citizens who have and daily do travail in this work, to give their attendance upon your said Honors, as well for the soliciting of our said suit, as also to know the King's Majesty's determinate pleasure therein.

AND FIRST, may it please your Honors to understand, that it was too evident to all men that beggary and thievery did abound. And we remembering how many statutes from time to time have been made for the redress of the same, and little amendment hitherto hath followed, thought to search the cause hereof, and after due examination had, we evidently perceived that the cause of all this misery and beggary was *Idleness*: and the mean and remedy to cure the same must be by its contrary, which is *Labour*. And it hath been a speech used of all men, to say unto the idle, work! work! even as though they would have said, the mean to *reform beggary*, is to *fall to work*.

AND WE considered also that the greatest number of beggars fallen into misery by lewd and evil service, by wars, by sickness or other adverse fortune, have so utterly lost their credit, that though they would shew themselves willing to labour, yet are they so suspected and feared of all men, that few or none dare, or will receive them to work: wherefore, we saw, that there could be no mean to amend this miserable sort, but by making some general provision of work, wherewith the *willing*

poor may be exercised; and whereby the froward, strong and sturdy vagabond may be compelled to live profitably to the commonwealth.

And before we proceeded to the doing of any thing herein, we considered who they were that we should relieve, and how they might be relieved. And among the whole rout of needy and miserable persons, we espied three sundry sorts which were diversly to be provided for; the succourless poor child, the sick and impotent, the sturdy vagabond, or idle person.

And first, we thought to begin with the poor child, that he might be harboured, clothed, fed, taught, and virtuously trained up, which thing we have (God be praised) already begun.

Next we thought to take up out of the streets, the miserable aged, sore and sick persons, (which also we have done) and the same to harbour, and by physic and surgery to cure and make whole.

Now resteth for the third sort, an house of occupations, to be erected; wherein as well, the child when he is brought up and grown to years, and found unapt to learning, neither any honest person desireth or would have his service, may there be exercised and occupied; as also the sore and sick when they be cured; who shall not be suffered to wander as vagabonds in the commonwealth, as they have been accustomed, but shall there be exercised. And unto this shall be brought the sturdy and idle: and likewise *such prisoners as are quit at the sessions*, that there they may be set to labour. And for that the number will be great, the place where they shall be exercised must also be great. And this being (as it were) the perfection of our whole former travail is yet

undone, and moveth us now to sue for the King's Majesty's house of Bridewell; for that the situation and largeness thereof seemeth most meet and convenient for this purpose, if it shall please the King's most excellent Majesty, of his great clemency and goodness, to grant that it may be employed to the said use.

THE USE OF THIS HOUSE.

IN THIS HOUSE shall be erected sundry occupations, wherein shall be trained all the former sorts of people, and those occupations shall be such as may be profitable to all the King's Majesty's subjects, and hurtful to none—as the making of caps, which shall be made as good, as well dressed and died, and more substantial than any are made in France; and yet shall be afforded at as low a price, or lower, than the French caps are; for there shall scarcely so much gain or profit be taken of their labours, as shall countervail their charges and expences. *Also the weaker sort* of people, that is to say, such as are lame of legs, and whole of hands, shall be occupied in making of feather-bed ticks, wool-cards, drawing of wire, spinning, carding, knitting, and winding of silk, and other profitable devices: *and the stubborn*, and fouller sort, shall be exercised in making of nails and other iron-work; even such sorts as are not made within any part of this realm.

ON WHAT GROUND, OR STOCK, THESE OCCUPATIONS SHALL BE FOUNDED.

SUCH HATH BEEN, (most honorable Lords) and we doubt not but it will increase, the charity of the good citizens, who have given no small sum of money to the furnishing of the two houses already erected; that is to say, of Christ's Hospital, which is the house of the fatherless, and of the Hospital in Southwark, which is the house of the sore, sick, and impotent, (besides £. 500 that the citi-

zens bear yearly to the succour and sustentation of the poor creatures of Christ, kept in the Hospital of St. Bartholomew) that we doubt nothing of the matter wherewith the *third* House, being the most needful and necessary, shall be furnished.

BUT YET, somewhat to satisfy your Honors, the foundation shall be this. CERTAIN godly and honest citizens will deliver matter in stock, whereof the idle shall be set on work; as wool, yarn, flax, wire, leather, &c. And when the same shall be wrought, to receive the same wrought wares in satisfaction of the stock, allowing for the workmanship thereof; and always as the wares are wrought to renew the stock. And thus shall there never lack matter whereon the idle shall be occupied.

OF THE GOVERNORS.

THOSE TO WHOM the whole charge and government shall be committed, as well of this House of Occupations, as also of the other Hospitals, are thirty in number; whereof six are aldermen, and two of the same six shall always be elected of those that have been mayors of the City: and twenty-four citizens of London, who shall be named and elected by the whole City. And the one-half, as well of the aldermen as of the commoners, shall yearly be removed, and as many others elected for them; so that the eldest shall remain but two years. Nothing shall be given, paid, nor ordered, but six at least of the said Governors shall first give their consent thereunto, and two of the six shall be aldermen. The fees and profits that these Governors shall have, shall be such as almighty God hath promised to them that travail in relieving of his needy members, and none other.

Among these Governors, one of the worshipful, and

wisest personage, and credible, shall be Treasurer for one year, and no more. And he to have the charge, as well of the sums of money that are to be received and paid, as also of such stock and wares, as in the said house shall be wrought and unwrought, and to account for the same; and to have for his labour and pains as is before recited, and *none other*.

ORDINARY OFFICERS.

THE ordinary officers in this house shall be certain men, to whom a convenient stipend shall be given, who shall be called *taskmasters* and *taskmistresses;* these shall be such honest persons as are expert in such sciences and occupations as there shall be exercised; and they shall take the charge of every man's task and proportion of work that shall be daily limitted and appointed for them to do: and these shall have power to correct and punish such as are under their task, if they loiter and be found negligent. There shall also be persons elected (once of the number of poor artificers, such as have led an honest life, and of upright dealing) who shall put in surety to the Treasurer for such stock of wares and stuff as shall be delivered unto them to be made and wrought.— There shall also be other ordinary officers, as porters, cooks, stewards, &c. to whom likewise shall be given convenient stipends.

THE CONTINUANCE.

FOR the continuance of this house we are not able to undertake, when nothing in this uncertain and changeable world can be permanent; but, we trust, that the same God who so opened the hearts of a great number of good men to impart liberally of their substance, before they saw any certain proceeding in this godly work, the same God will open the hearts of godly men to provide for the continuance of it, being now brought to some effect.

And thus are we persuaded, that so long as the world shall continue, God will bless and endue this realm with godly Governors, who will be careful to preserve the same from ruin and decay. And during also the continuance of the world, some (yea, we may well fear, too many) will fall to folly and idleness. The present remedy to reform their idle life, shall be always the House of Labour and Occupations; therefore, during the continuance of the world, will godly Governors and Magistrates preserve and maintain the House of Occupations. And, doubtless, whensoever the same doth decay, then shall beggary be restored to his old state. The travail and exercise hereof shall be also found both so necessary for the ease and comfort, as well of the poor decayed householder, as of the beggar, and shall be so commodious and profitable to the realm, that it cannot perish, but must of necessity have continuance.

And this we promise your Honors, that *we* will faithfully travail for the furniture of the said house with implements, instruments, tools, and sufficient stuff to work upon, only for God's sake and for the relief of the miserable poor and needy, and for none other lucre, gain, or profit: And that under the pain and forfeiture (which we are loth to incur) that is, under the pain and forfeiture of God his gracious favor and mercy; and under the pain and forfeiture of the said house with all the appurtenances unto the King's Majesty's hands; and of all the great costs and charges which we then shall have bestowed upon the same. And if it shall seem unto the King's Majesty that so princely an house is not meet to be converted to the harbouring of so evil and miserable a sort of people as of force ever must harbour; that then it may please your Honors, to be a mean for us unto his Highness for the house and lands of the Savoy.

THUS HAVE WE shortly declared to your Honors our meaning herein; most humbly beseeching the same that we may not only have your furtherance in this, but also your further aid and assistance towards the King's Majesty in providing and establishing such things and ordinances as are requisite for the better perfecting and continuance of this foundation, (whereof we beseech his Highness to be the Patron, as a perpetual memory of his Godly zeal to the commonwealth, in abandoning idleness and relieving the poor) as shall hereafter be thought necessary. And we shall, according to our bounden duty, pray for the long continuance of your Honors."

PREAMBLE TO THE

"ORDINANCES and RULES, drawn out for the good Government of the House of Bridewell, 1557.*

To the Governors or rather Almoners of Bridewell.

YE are elected and assigned by the consent of the Lord Mayor and his brethren, to be rulers and overseers of this house of Bridewell, and all the people therein; and, as ye are accounted for men of much worship and wisdom, and of great experience; which are such and so necessary virtues, as without the same, this house cannot be well governed, so must you (according to the trust and confidence that is had in you) endeavour yourselves to the good government thereof; that it may yield the worthy fruit that the same is erected for; that is to say, to be an House of continuance for the oppression of idleness, the enemy of all virtue, and the nourisher of good exercise, which is the conqueror of all vice.

* Sir Martin Bowes was, most probably, the author. See the City Record, September 28, 1557.

And to the intent that no Governor or Almoner of this house should be ignorant of the foundation of the same, neither that he should bear succour more to this house than the other good houses or hospitals, erected for the relief of the sore and sick, and bringing up of youth virtuously; or to bear more phantasy to the said houses than they do to this; it shall therefore be requisite that the foundation both of the said Hospitals, and also of this house, be opened and declared to you in a short sum.

AND FIRST, you shall understand, that God Almighty, by his wonderful and unsearchable wisdom, was and is the very only author and founder of this work, rather by miracle than otherwise; as it is apparent; for how impossible in this time (if the same were to be erected) were it now to be brought to pass? But to be short, as touching the erection of the same.—The policy which God gave unto man, and hastened the same forth to be done in his due time, tended to this effect.—To succour and relieve *all* the poor of the City of London, and banish and put away beggary, which in effect is idleness. For there is as great a difference between a poor man and a beggar, as is between a true man and a thief. The poor man is he whom age or sickness oppresseth, or by losses or otherwise is beaten to the ground with necessity, which doth labour willingly to gain that may be gotten, so long as power and strength will serve. The beggar is the contrary; one who never yieldeth himself to any good exercise, but continually travaileth in idleness, training such youth as cometh to his or their cuſtody, to the same wickedness of life.

The policy, I say, of the erection of the said Hospitals tended to the reformation thereof, as (God be praised) it hath had good success and taken effect; for there is no

poor citizen at this day that beggeth his bread, but by some mean his poverty is provided for.

The way and mean to remedy the same was thought meet, *first*, to train up *the beggar's child* in virtuous exercise, that of him should spring no more beggars;—*then* to place the sore and aged person, that he might have relief and succour; to yield alms to the poor and honest householders, being decayed; and, *last of all*, to force and compel the idle strumpet and vagabond to honest and virtuous exercise; so that the lewd and idle sort should remain in Bridewell to labour, so long as they were whole; and being sick, be brought to St. Thomas's Hospital, and recovering again his or their health, be returned from whence they came; and not set at liberty into the highways, as it hath been accustomed, by means whereof was made of *a sick beggar an whole thief*.

And, in like manner, the child brought up in Christ's Hospital, if he were of good capacity, then to be trained in learning; if he were not apt to learning, then to commit him to some one occupation or other: if he were sick, to be committed to St. Thomas's Hospital, and when he were whole, to be returned to Christ's Hospital: if he were lewd and idle, then to be brought to Bridewell.

And thus these three Houses or Hospitals, that is to say, Christ's, St. Thomas's, and Bridewell, are so linked together, as the one serveth the other, and the one may not be without the other; and whosoever thinketh well of the one, must also think well of the other, and whoso thinketh not well of all, thinketh well of none. Thus is opened unto you the policy in erecting of these Houses.

And now, concerning the governance of the same; as the Governors of the other Hospitals and Bridewell are

all incorporated and made one body, and whosoever is Governor of one of them, is also Governor of them all; and yet, for order sake, the said Governors are divided to the several government of the said houses; so in like manner are ye appointed to the government of Bridewell. And, for as much as in the same house are used and exercised sundry faculties which muts be diligently governed and looked unto; and that the Governors of the same are skilful and have knowledge, some in one faculty, and some in another; it is therefore requisite for the good order of the said house, that the Governors be divided to the oversight of several charges: as some to the oversight of Cloth-making; and others to the Smithy and Nail-making, and some to the Mill-house and Bake-house, &c. to the intent that every of them, in their several charges, may shew themselves before God and the honorable City, as worthy and good Governors of the same. And now shall be first described unto you so much as necessarily appertaineth unto the whole body of those that govern in Bridewell, and then I will proceed to the description of the particular charges that the Governors thereof shall take upon them in their several offices."

It would be tedious, and at this day useless, to recite the particular instructions for each department; but the following earnest exhortation to the managing Governors must not be omitted :—it is judicious, solemn, and peculiarly impressive.

" AND, forasmuch as ye are wise men and good men, and have the perfect and true knowledge of the usage of the said faculty—to the benefit and profit of this House, we do therefore put our whole trust and confidence in you, and *pray* you, and yet nevertheless *charge* you, (as we are all charged) and as ye tender the furtherance of this accept-

able work of God, which is the overthrow of idleness, the begetter of all sin and mischief;—that ye will with all diligence, so endeavour yourselves to the oversight and governance of this work, as the ſtock appointed to the same do not decay, nor diminish, but rather be advanced and increased.—And this is your charge, wherein if ye travail diligently, and *chiefly now at the first*, for good order sake;---Good men will commend you,—all the worthy Governors must love you,—and God Almighty will bless you here with worship, and reward you in heaven with the crown of glory everlasting; prepared for you and all them that fear his name and walk in his ways. Amen."

FINIS.